

Interim Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1943.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council,

The routine work of the District has been carried on normally during the year and the general health continues to be excellent. No cases of malnutrition or under-nutrition have been brought to my notice.

Scarlet Fever - 20 cases notified - were of mild type - no deaths.

Measles - 14 " " " "

Whooping Cough - 12 " " " "

Diphtheria - No cases have been notified.

Immunisation has been continued and special efforts to protect more children under school age are being made.

Scabies - Measures taken to control this infestation are proving effective.

Venereal Disease - I have no figures as to incidence and prevalence. Facilities for early treatment, which is so important, are widely advertised. Propaganda methods by sex education, as organised by the Central Council for Health Education and approved by the Ministry of Health, have and are being taken advantage of by exhibition of posters, &c.

Tuberculosis - The following figures for the last three years are submitted:-

On the register for 1941	...	22 cases.
		14 pulmonary and 8 non-pulmonary.
" " 1942	...	28 cases.
		16 pulmonary and 12 non-pulmonary.
" " 1943	...	30 cases.
		16 pulmonary and 14 non-pulmonary.
<u>Deaths</u> - ... 1941	...	1 pulmonary case.
	...	1 " "
	...	1 " "

New cases in 1943 totalled 7: 3 pulmonary & 4 non-pulmonary.

Milk Supplies - In a comprehensive report to the Council at the end of 1942 I stressed the importance of the following points:-

1. The complete re-organisation of the milk industry.
2. A large increase in the veterinary staffs.
3. The training of more milkers, especially women.
4. A better and more uniform standard inspection of herds and premises.
5. An endeavour to find quicker and more reliable methods of sampling.
6. A closer collaboration between the veterinary staff and Medical Officers of Health.
7. Speeding up in forming tubercle free herds.
8. A simplification in the designations of milk to clear up misunderstandings in the mind of the consumer.

Most of these matters are embodied in the recent White Paper and subsequent Act dealing with the Milk Industry.

For other points which have been under consideration see Mr. Head's report appended.

At the end of the year the number of evacuees remaining in the district was 174.

Water Supplies - The quality of the piped supply of softened and chlorinated water continues to be satisfactory and a constant supply is readily available to meet the demands of the areas served. Approximately 55% of the dwelling-houses in the Urban Area are now connected to the mains which serve about 60% of the population. (See also Mr. Head's report).

All records, including statistics supplied by the Registrar-General are being preserved for presentation after the conclusion of the War.

ALEX. P. AGNEW, M.B., C.M.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Report of Sanitary Inspector for 1943.

I submit hereunder particulars of work in connection with my duties as Sanitary Inspector which were carried out during the year 1943.

Housing - As in preceding war years repairs were only effected in the case of leaky roofs and other essential matters. 34 Council Houses were painted externally.

Water Supply - The water supplied by the Council's Waterworks during the year was entirely satisfactory. 68,805,000 gallons were pumped during the year, which was an increase of 3,640,000 gallons over the previous twelve months.

Milk Supply - 37 samples of Accredited Milk were taken and submitted to the County Laboratory for bacteriological examination. 20 satisfied the methylene blue test; 12 failed; the water bath failed during the examination of 4 samples and 1 was delivered too late by the bus at the laboratory.

19 samples were submitted to Dr. Sheather for examination in respect to tuberculosis. 17 were reported as negative; 1 sample bottle was broken in transit and 1 guinea-pig died prematurely so that the examination was not completed.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal - No extensions have been made to the sewers during 1943. The long standing trouble of the sludge beds failing to dry out at the Sewage Disposal Works was remedied by construction of additional drainage.

Food Inspection - The undernamed foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption at the shops and were destroyed:-

28 lbs. beef; 33 tins of vegetables; 20 tins meat;
14 tins fish; 8 tins fruit; 2 tins soup.

E. J. HEAD.
Sanitary Inspector.